

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004 Revised
& Abbreviated**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT**

**ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT
IN THE DISTRICT**

Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual Roundtable via Zoom

To Watch Live:

<https://dccouncil.us/council-videos/>

<http://video.oct.dc.gov/DCC/jw.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen/>

This notice has been revised to reflect a change in starting time for the hearing, which had been originally scheduled for 11:00 on the same date, and to include instructions for the public to submit written testimony.

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, will convene a public roundtable to consider “Traffic Enforcement in the District.” The roundtable will be conducted virtually via the Zoom platform from 10:30 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m., and witnesses will be limited to those invited by the Committee.

In 2015, the Mayor announced her commitment to Vision Zero, pledging to eliminate all traffic fatalities in the District by 2024. However, in the eight years since the Mayor’s announcement, traffic fatalities in the District have increased from 26 in 2015 to 40 in 2021—a 10-year high. Despite this surge in traffic violence, the District does not have an effective system of traffic enforcement and residents feel traffic violence has only increased. One metric to evaluate the risks on our roadways is through the lens of traffic citations. Traffic citations for speeding and dangerous driving have increased, and much focus is on the lack of consequences for drivers that do not pay the fines associated with these citations. Since 2000, 6.2 million traffic tickets totaling nearly \$1.3 billion remain unpaid. An overwhelming share of those unpaid tickets were issued to drivers from Maryland and Virginia, against whom the District has little recourse with the lack of automated traffic enforcement ticket reciprocity across the region. While much of the focus has centered on unpaid citations, the Committee is also deeply concerned with the impacts of repeated dangerous driving on neighborhood streets even if that citation is repeatedly paid—whether paid or unpaid, these actions represent dangerous driving that puts DC residents at risk. Overall, the

District's current traffic enforcement system fails to effectively impose meaningful consequences for dangerous driving and undermines the District's progress towards Vision Zero.

The Committee recognizes that in the long-term the best and most equitable way to improve the safety of our roads is to build safer roads, but enforcement of traffic rules will always remain an important part of our Vision Zero policy. Our current enforcement regime needs improvements, and therefore, the Committee convenes this roundtable to explore how to improve traffic enforcement to reverse current road safety trends and get back on track to achieve our Vision Zero goals. Rather than conduct a hearing or roundtable on a single solution, the Committee hopes to hear a broad range of input and proposals that can inform future legislative and policy reforms including, but not limited to:

- How to best utilize and balance the District's automated traffic enforcement ("ATE") system, administered by the District Department of Transportation, with in-person enforcement by the Metropolitan Police Department;
- Ensuring that there are meaningful consequences for all citations for moving violations, but in particular those issued by the ATE system;
- Potential changes to the District's definition of reckless driving and the consequences associated with this violation;
- Barriers to enforcement against both District and out-of-state drivers, including the District's efforts to establish reciprocity agreements with Virginia and Maryland;
- Whether the District should assess points against a driver for citations issued by the ATE system;
- Whether the Committee should consider reassigning in-person traffic enforcement from the Metropolitan Police Department to another District agency; and
- How the District can create a more equitable system of enforcement, including whether fines should be adjusted or waived in certain circumstances, including based on drivers' ability to pay, and what alternatives exist to monetary penalties.

Members of the public who were not invited to testify at the hearing, are encouraged to submit written statements that will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be emailed to the Committee at cote@dccouncil.gov. Please indicate that you are submitting testimony for this hearing in the subject line of the e-mail. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Tuesday, June 6, 2023.**